

WORLD COURT LEAGUE'S CHIEF STEP FORWARD

Tribunal Now Functions as
Major Contribution to
Peace Aims.

This is the second of three stories on
the League of Nations, now faced with
the gravest test in its history—Japan's
desire in invading Manchuria—as its
thirteenth birthday nears.

BY MILTON BRONER
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LONDON, Jan. 5.—Despite the fact that the League of Nations, which will be thirteen years old Jan. 16, has had its fervent foes in the United States and elsewhere, it unquestionably has one very great achievement to its credit—creation of the Permanent Court of International Justice, "The World Court."

For many years such a tribunal has been the dream of many statesmen. They reasoned that, just as each civilized country has a supreme court which passes final legal judgment, there should be an international court before which nations could appear as parties to a suit and ask for reasoned judgment, rather than resort to war.

Court Now Functioning

Before the League of Nations came into being, attempts at forming such a court had failed. Then Article 14 of the league covenant set up the necessary machinery and now the world court functions as a major contribution to the aims of peace.

Alone among the great world powers, except Soviet Russia, the United States never joined the court, though Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover each recommended adherence.

Several distinguished Americans have served as judges of the court, each acting in his private—and unofficial—capacity. Among them have been Charles Evans Hughes, now chief justice of the United States supreme court, and ex-Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, who is one of the present judges.

Judges for the world court are elected by the council and assembly of the League of Nations, upon nominations supplied by nations that are members of The Hague permanent court of arbitration, a much older tribunal.

There are fifteen judges, but not more than one may come from the same nation.

The idea is to choose judges from nations representing all the different codes of law in various parts of the world. Thus, at present, there are judges from the United States, China, Cuba, Salvador, Japan, Spain, Italy, Holland, France, Great Britain, Rumania, Belgium, Poland, Colombia and Germany.

Probably the World Court's most famous action took place in 1931, when Austria and Germany started the world by announcing they planned to enter a customs union.

France made violent protest, fearing this was the first step toward a real union between Germany and Austria.

The league council asked the court for an advisory opinion on whether such a customs union did not violate the Treaty of St. Germain, in which Austria promised to grant no exclusive privileges.

French Claim Upheld

By a vote of 8 to 7 the court decided the proposed union was illegal, but before the opinion was handed down, Germany and Austria had dropped the plan.

An interesting case occurred when the management of the Kiel canal in Germany refused to allow passage of the British steamship Wimbledon. The vessel had been chartered by a French company and was laden with munitions destined for Poland.

England, France, Japan and Italy appealed to the court under a clause in the Versailles treaty which treats with the Kiel canal. The court gave judgment against Germany.

The World court costs about \$500,000 a year and is financed by the League of Nations.

Open to All Countries

States that are not members of the league, but which adhere to the World court, pay amounts similar to the proportions they would pay if they were members of the league.

If the United States adhered to the court, the nation's cost would be about \$50,000 a year.

The court is open to every nation in the world. Conditions fixed by the League of Nations, require merely a declaration accepting the

Let's Explore Your Mind

BY DR. ALBERT EDWARD WIGGAM, D. Sc.



1 IS THE PRIDE OF A PERSON WHO BOASTS OF A VIVID ANCESTOR, SEVERAL GENERATIONS BACK, JUSTIFIED?

2 ARE WOMEN MORE INTELLIGENT THAN MEN?

3 MARRIAGE AS SERIOUS AN UNDERTAKING FOR MEN AS IT IS FOR WOMEN?

4 BECAUSE WOMEN ARE MORE INTELLIGENT THAN MEN?

5 IS THE PRIDE OF A PERSON WHO BOASTS OF A VIVID ANCESTOR, SEVERAL GENERATIONS BACK, JUSTIFIED?

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